

metro  parks

# PERCY WARNER PARK

2058.1 ACRES  
METROPOLITAN BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
Karl Dean, Mayor

### Warner Park Nature Center

7311 Hwy 100  
Nashville, TN 37221  
615/352-6299  
Hours: Monday through Saturday  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
wpnc@nashville.gov  
www.nashville.org/parks/wpnc

### Warner Park Headquarters & Friends of Warner Parks Office

50 Vaughn Rd.  
Nashville, TN 37221  
Hours: Monday through Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
HQ: www.nashville.org/parks/warnerpark  
615/370-8051  
FOWP: 615/370-8053



FRIENDS OF  
WARNER PARKS

Text, Photos, and Maps by Deb Beazley  
FUNDED BY THE FRIENDS OF WARNER PARKS

## WELCOME TO THE WARNER PARKS

Three prominent Nashvillians shared in the vision that produced the Warner Parks. The first of these, Colonel Luke Lea, was encouraged in this far-sighted plan by his father-in-law, Percy Warner. Warner, a life-long outdoorsman and nature lover, was a prominent Nashville businessman and served as chairman of the Park Board. In January of 1927, Colonel and Mrs. Lea generously deeded the initial 868 acres of land to the city. Following Percy Warner's unexpected death later that same year, Lea successfully petitioned the Board to name the new Park after his father-in-law. The Park commissioners then recognized Lea's contributions by naming one of the highest points in the Park Luke Lea Heights (now popularly known as Lea's Summit).










Following his brother Percy's death, Edwin Warner was named to the Park Board, and eventually he too became chairman. Edwin Warner was a driving force behind the acquisition and development of the Parks. In 1937, the Park Board commemorated his valuable contributions by designating all the acquired property west and south of Old Hickory Boulevard as Edwin Warner Park.

Geologically, the Parks are located in the Nashville Basin. The hills and ridges that rise about 300 feet above the valleys are remnants of the surrounding Highland Rim. The underlying rock is limestone and many moss covered outcroppings expose rocks notably rich in fossils from life-forms that lived in a shallow sea 450 million years ago.

Most of the Parks consist of woods which lie within the Western Mesophytic Region of an Eastern Deciduous Forest. Diverse habitats are preserved and wildlife abounds here. The two dominant forest communities are oak/hickory and beech/maple. Approximately 110 species of trees, over 400 species of wildflowers and roughly 200 fungi have been identified. Some common trees include tulip poplar, walnut, persimmon, dogwood, black cherry, sassafras and pawpaw. Spring brings trilliums, trout lilies, dutchman's breeches and larkspur to the forest floor. Meadows bloom each fall with ironweed, goldenrod, daisies and butterfly weed. Visitors can enjoy looking and listening for close to 200 species of birds and at least 30 different mammals, large and small. The Park is also home to over 40 species of reptiles and amphibians.

This urban forest is a unique treasure in Nashville because it grants relief from the pressures of urban living by providing a peaceful place for relaxation, reflection, wildlife viewing, photography, hiking, horseback riding, strolling, biking and many other responsible recreational pursuits. It also offers a place to encourage appreciation and respect for our natural world and our fellow human beings who share it.

## LEGEND

- |  |   |   |                          |
|--|---|---|--------------------------|
|  | TWO WAY VEHICULAR ACCESS  |  | TREE TRAIL SPECIMEN TREE |
|  | ONE WAY VEHICULAR ACCESS<br>arrow indicates direction of travel |  | SCENIC OVERLOOKS         |
|  | TRAILHEADS  |  | GATES                    |
|  | PICNIC SHELTERS   |  | RESTROOMS                |
|  | PARKING   |   |                          |

### HIKING TRAILS

- |  |                      |             |                  |          |
|--|----------------------|-------------|------------------|----------|
|  | WARNER WOODS TRAIL   | WHITE       | 2 1/2 MILE LOOP  | MODERATE |
|  | MOSSY RIDGE TRAIL    | RED         | 4 1/2 MILE LOOP  | MODERATE |
|  | CANE CONNECTOR TRAIL | CANDYSTRIPE | 1 MILE (ONE WAY) | EASY     |
- (to Edwin Warner Park trails)

### BRIDLE PATHS

- |  |                        |        |               |
|--|------------------------|--------|---------------|
|  | OLD BEECH TRAIL        | YELLOW | 8.0 MILE LOOP |
|  | DEEP WELL CUT OFF      | PINK   | 6.9 MILE LOOP |
|  | INDIAN SPRINGS CUT OFF | BLUE   | 3.2 MILE LOOP |

## HIKING TRAILS

The **TRAILHEAD** and parking for both trails is located at the Deep Well picnic area off Highway 100. Follow the lead trail and the Warner Woods Trail begins 200 yards from the trailhead and The Mossy Ridge Trail begins 300 yards from the trailhead.

**WARNER WOODS TRAIL:** a 2-1/2-mile loop, blazed WHITE, and rated MODERATE. The entire trail is in the heavily wooded interior of the Park, and about a third of the trail is in one of the Park's most secluded regions. Also, hikers can experience a breathtaking view from the cleared knob of Luke Lea Heights at an elevation of 922 feet by walking down a paved road that the trail crosses (see map).

**MOSSY RIDGE TRAIL:** a 4-1/2-mile loop, blazed RED, and rated MODERATE. The trail winds up and down wooded hills and hollows, crosses several springs and open meadows and offers users a unique opportunity to see the wide variety of plants and animals that may be found in the Park. Two especially nice features are a short spur trail that leads to a "quiet point" (see map) and a steep, rocky ridge near Scott Hollow (also on map) with trailsides carpeted in moss; both sections have resting benches.

## THE CONNECTOR TRAIL

**CANE CONNECTOR TRAIL:** a 1-mile, one-way, with a CANDYSTRIPE blaze and rated EASY. Opened in 1997, the trail runs between the Mossy Ridge and Hungry Hawk trails thus connecting the entire Warner Parks trail system. Following the old Natchez Trace hikers should exercise CAUTION when crossing Old Hickory Boulevard.